



Dear Neighbors,

Friday, April 16, 2010

District A Crime Prevention Town Hall Meeting

Houston City Council Member Brenda Stardig will host a District A Crime Prevention Town Hall Meeting to proactively address crime prevention for area residents.

When: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Where: Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Hall 8790
1560 Foley (corner of Long Point & Campbell) Houston, TX 77055

The town hall meeting will address what residents can do to prevent crime with presentations about burglary of motor vehicles and homes as well as information on HPD's Positive Interaction Program and Citizens Patrol Program by the Northwest Division. HPD's Anti-Gang Division will present gang related identifiers to residents and Crime Stoppers of Houston will showcase different crime reporting resources.



If you are interested in learning about your local law enforcement entities, would like to get tips on what you can do to prevent crime or just want to be informed of local crime activity in your area, then mark your calendar for this important Crime Prevention Town Hall Meeting.

For more information contact Lynda Sims in the District A Office at 832.393.3010 or email Lynda.Sims@cityofhouston.net.

Northwest PIP/CP Meetings

The Houston Police Department's Northwest Division will host a Positive Interaction Program (PIP) and Citizens Patrol (CP) Meeting. HPD Officer Dees will discuss how crime is affecting the area.

Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Time: CP begins at 6:30 p.m. PIP begins at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Long Point Baptist Church Sanctuary
8009 Long Point, Houston, Texas 77055

For more information contact Sr. Officer Chris Engelhardt at 832.394.0104.

Neighborhood Protection Inspectors Update

The Houston Police Department's Neighborhood Protection Corp (NPC) has filled 8 vacancies within the division. This brings the department back to full staff with a total of **48** general inspectors, **2** multi-family/business inspectors and **11** administrative personnel.

NPC seeks to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods by reducing blight and substandard living conditions. NPC enforces City Codes related to open and dangerous buildings, weeded lots, junk motor vehicles, graffiti and nuisances on private property.

Call 9-1-1 if you witness a crime in progress or 3-1-1 to make a report on NPC infractions.

Visit www.houstontx.gov/police/npc.htm to learn more about NPC.

Green Recycling Bins

The City of Houston's Solid Waste Department (SWD) has distributed 96-gallon recycling bins to 33 neighborhoods in District A. The new recycle bins allow citizens to recycle more, which in turn saves landfill space, saves taxpayer dollars and helps conserve natural resources.

Congratulations to District A residents who have a high recycling participation rate. Residents wishing to dispose of their old recycling containers may drop them off at the **Westpark Consumer Recycling Building at 5900 Westpark.**

For more information about recycling visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste.

T.C. Jester Dog Park Grand Opening

Bring man's best friend to T.C. Jester Dog Park for a Grand Opening Celebration! The Houston Humane Society will have a mobile adoption van with doggie vendors, refreshments and entertainment. A special "in the park" free training session with professional dog trainer Crista Meyer will take place at 3:00 p.m. and visitors can learn what their dogs are thinking, feeling and saying to each other by observing dog body language.

When: Saturday, April 24, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Where: T. C. Jester Dog Park at 4201 West T. C. Jester

Schedule of events include:

2:00 Speech by Mayor or City Council
2:10 Tiffany Moore speaks about HDP
2:20 Nathalie Bland talks about importance of picking up pet waste
2:25 Christa Meyers "Tips for entering a dog park safely"
2:30 Balloon Animals, Face Painting, Doggie Hair Spray, refreshments and activities
3:00 Christa Meyers - Personal Dog Behavior Education Session in the park
3:30 Flame thrower demonstration
4:00 End

Visit www.houstondogpark.org/TC-Jester-Dog-Park.htm for more information.

Taste of Spring Branch

Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) will host "Taste of Spring Branch", an event with delectable treats from area restaurants. Participating restaurants include Hollister Grill, Old Towne Kolaches, Blue Planet Café, Gelato Blu, Abuela Cocina Mexicana, Guadajara Hacienda, Lefse Ladies, HEB, Polonia, Chocolate Pizzazz, Ashland House Restaurant and Tea and many others.

When: Sunday, April 25, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Where: 1625 Blalock, Houston, TX 77080



Taste of Spring Branch

Advance purchase tickets cost \$20 and event day tickets cost \$25. Visit www.helpherehelpnow.org to purchase tickets online or visit the MAM Resale Store at 1625 Blalock Road, Houston, TX 77080.

Ticket proceeds benefit MAM, a section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which serves the Spring Branch area and near northwest Houston in a variety of ways, including rental assistance, utility help and limited medical and prescription assistance. MAM works closely with Spring Branch Independent School District to provide school uniforms, supplies and eyeglasses for students. For more information call 713.574.7540 or visit www.helpherehelpnow.org.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and encourage individuals and communities to support children and families.

Visit <http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth> for information regarding signs of abuse and what you can do to help.

HCC Spring Branch April Events

Free Accelerated Teacher Certification Information Session

Houston Community College (HCC) Spring Branch Campus will host a free information session for individuals interested in learning about the Accelerated Teacher Certification Program.

The Accelerated Teacher Certification Program is an educator preparation program that prepares individuals interested in elementary or secondary classroom teacher certification. A bachelor's degree is required.

When: Wednesday, April 21, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Where: HCC Spring Branch Campus in the Eagle Room

Those interested in attending may call 713.718.8360 to reserve a seat.

HCC Spring Branch Invites Community to Job Fair

HCC welcomes employers from diverse industries to the annual Spring Job Fair. Job seekers will have the opportunity to meet with recruiters and learn about exciting employment opportunities in Houston. This event is free to attend and open to the public.

When: Wednesday, April 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where: HCC Spring Branch Campus in the South Hallway

Confirmed employers attending include the US Navy, The Art Institute of Houston, ID Theft Solutions, College Nannies and Tutors of Katy, Serv-U-Demo, State Farm Insurance, City of Houston, Ikea, Federal Bureau of Prisons, ChildCare Careers LLC, Allied Barton Security Services, TNT Direct Sales - Comcast, Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, Green Mountain Energy, Aflac, Workforce Solutions, and Food Team.

Résumé assistance is available by appointment. Email jp.nw@hccs.edu or call 713.718.5423 for more information.

Houston Galveston Area Council

The Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC) is the regional organization through which local governments consider issues and cooperate in solving area wide problems. HGAC plays a role in area transportation and mobility including the US290 project.

The organization is community driven with commitment to improving residents' commute. To express your position on the US290 improvement project, residents are encouraged to call the HGAC Hotline Number 1.866.95US290 (1.866.958.7290).

Visit www.h-gac.com for more information about HGAC.

Become an Urban Gardener

The City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department provides gardening opportunities for interested community groups to transform select gardening spots in parks into community gardens through the Urban Gardening Program. Although all parks are not eligible for this program interested parties may contact an urban gardener by emailing theurbangardener@cityofhouston.net.

For more information on how your neighborhood can get involved visit www.houstontx.gov/parks/urbanGardener-About.html.

Off-Street Parking Community Meetings

Mayor Annise Parker released the statement below regarding an upcoming off-street parking community meeting.

The Houston Planning Commission is examining off-street parking issues and whether changes to Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances are needed. Some of the topics that will be discussed include, but are not limited to shared parking, parking management areas, types of occupancy and intensity of use (i.e. bars, types of restaurants, etc.), parking incentives for development along transit corridors or for restoration of historic buildings, lifts and valet parking, just to name a few.

Wednesday, April 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

United Way of Greater Houston
50 Waugh Drive, Houston, TX 77007

You may access the existing parking ordinance at <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=10123&stateId=43&stateName=Texas>; choose Chapter 26 in the left window.

If unable to attend one of the meetings, comments and ideas may be submitted by email to parkingcomments@cityofhouston.net or by mail to Dipti Mathur, City of Houston Planning Department, P.O. Box 1562, Houston, TX 77251. The process may be followed on the Planning and Development Department's website at www.houstonplanning.com.

Houston Public Library Implements New Service Hours

Mayor Annise Parker released the statement below regarding new service hours for Houston Public Libraries.

Like many libraries across the state and nation, Houston Public Library is experiencing an increase in library usage while the economy is forcing reductions to our budget. In an effort to better align our services with our current budget and staff resources, we will implement a reduction in service hours beginning this **Saturday, April 17, 2010**.

We remain committed to providing the high level of customer service you expect from the Houston Public Library. We apologize for any inconvenience these changes may cause. We will be monitoring library usage and listening to customer feedback as we move forward.

Please visit www.houstonlibrary.org/new-hours-of-operation for more information about how these decisions were made and what the new hours of operation will be at your library.

Houston International Festival

The 2010 Houston International Festival will celebrate the rich history and cultural influences of the Caribbean, spanning from City Hall to Upper Sam Houston Park. The Caribbean Living Museum will showcase a 40-foot-long reproduction of a historic pirate ship. Visitors will experience pirate demonstrations and learn history of famous pirates of the Caribbean.

When: April 17-18 & 24-25

Saturdays 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. & Sundays 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Where: Downtown Houston - stretching across 16 acres of downtown parks and streets including City Hall at 900 Bagby.



Building a stronger sense of community.